

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09974 171751Z

73

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FBIE-00 L-02 VO-03 CPR-01 JUSE-00

SY-04 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-07 /043 W

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R 171730Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2775

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 9974

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN, PFOR, GH, BE

SUBJECT: JOHN ACKAH BLAY-MIEZAH/GEOFFREY'S BANK

REF: STATE 271110

1. GEOFFREY'S BANK, BLVD. BISCHOFFSHIEM 26, B-1000 BRUSSELS, IS A QUITE SMALL BELGIAN-OWNED BANK WITH THREE BRANCHES. IT TRACES ITS ROOTS BACK TO 1945. THE BANK INFORMS US THAT IT HAS REGULAR COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SCHRODER BANKING CORPORATION, 1 STATE STREET BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY (TEL: 269-6500).

2. WHILE THE BANK'S BUSINESS REPUTATION IS CLEAN, THE HUSBAND (ARNO NEWMAN) OF THE BANK'S PRESIDENT AND APPARENT OWNER HAS TWICE BEEN CONVICTED OF FRAUD (ONCE IN FRANCE AND ONCE IN BELGIUM). THIS EMBASSY REFUSED HIM A VISA FOR THE UNITED STATES IN 1973.

3. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES RECOMMEND CAUTION IN ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH MR. NEWMAN BUT HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT GEOFFREY'S BANK ITSELF IS UNRELIABLE. THEY POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS RATHER SMALL TO BE ENGAGED IN ANY LARGE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

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